

Deut 7-12 to 11-25 Torah Reading - Parshat Ekev
English version with tropes August 6, 2020

7:12 [And it shall be] | because [of your hearkening] [to these] regulations [I am speaking of], if you safeguard and observe them, [God will keep in mind]—YHWH your God—[for your sake], the covenant and the kindness which was promised to your fathers.

13 God [will love you] [and bless you], [and make you many].

God will bless [the fruit of your womb] [and the fruit of your soil] as well as your grain, [your new wine] [and your oil], [the offspring of your cattle] and the young of your sheep, there on the land which God promised to your forebears, that he would give you.

14 Blessed will you be among all peoples. [There will not be] [in your midst] barren males or females, [either people or livestock].

15 [Taken away] [by YHWH] from you [will be every sickness] [and all the afflictions] from Egypt—so terrible—ones [that you have known]. [God will not] [place them] upon you, [but will place them] [on all of your enemies].

16 [You will devour] [all of the peoples]—[the ones] that YHWH your God is giving you. Show not pity in your eye upon them.

And do not worship their gods: [a snare it will be] to you.

17 If [you should say] in your heart, “[Many indeed] are the nations before us—more than we, how will we be able [to drive them out]?”

18 Do not be afraid of them. Remember—[yes, keep it in mind]—that [which was done] by YHWH your God to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.

19 The ordeals—the great trials [that you saw] [with your own eyes], the signs and the wonders,

God’s hand—His strong hand, the arm outstretched, by which you were brought out by YHWH your God, [such will be done] by YHWH your God to all the nations [of whom you have fear] [in the face of them].

20 Also the hornet [will be sent] by YHWH your God against them, [until they die off]—[those that are left]—and those who are hiding from you.

21 Do not be in terror before them, [since YHWH] your God [is among you], a God great and awesome.

22 [For driven out] by YHWH your God [will be those nations] [of whom we speak], [from before you], little by little. [You will not] be able [to dispose of them] quickly, lest you be overwhelmed by the beasts of the field.

23 [Given over they will be] by YHWH your God before you, [making them panic] in great confusion, until [they are destroyed].

7:24 [He will put] their kings [into your hand]. [You will blot out] their names from under the heavens.

[There will not withstand] any man [in front of you], until you have destroyed them all.

25 The statues of their gods you must burn with fire. [You must not covet] the silver and gold [that is on them], [and take it] for yourselves, [lest you] be ensnared [by them]. [Because indeed something] [offensive it is] to YHWH your God, this thing.

26 [Do not bring] [an offensive thing] [into your house], lest you be doomed to destruction like it.

Abominable | [and abhorrent it is], something | accursed, meant for destruction

8:1 [All the instructions]—the ones [that I myself] [am enjoining on you] today, you must safeguard and keep, so that you may live [and that you may flourish], [that you may come] and possess the land that was sworn by YHWH to your fathers.

2 [And you shall remember] [all the long road] in which you were led [by YHWH] [Eloheicha your God] [throughout all these] forty years in the desert [so he might afflict you], [putting you to the test], [in order to know] [what you have in you]—[what is in your heart]: would you keep His commandments or not?

3 [And so did God afflict you], [making you hungry]. [He fed you] with *manna*, which you [had not known], nor was it known to your fathers, in order [that you would know] [that *this* is the truth]: not by bread alone do [people live], [but rather, by all] that proceeds from the mouth of YHWH do people live.

4 The clothing you wore [did not] [wear out] [upon you], [and your feet] did not swell, these forty years.

5 [And you shall know] in your heart—[this you will learn]—[that just as] there trains a man his son, so does YHWH your God [train you].

6 You must safeguard the commandments of YHWH your God, to walk in God's ways, and to hold Him in awe.

7 Indeed, YHWH your God [is bringing you] to a land that is good,

[a land] with brooks of water, with springs,—[even underground springs] coming out in valleys and mountains;

8 a land of wheat and barley, grapevines and figs, and pomegranates, land of olives and oil, and honey.

9 [It is a land] in which never in poverty will you eat in it bread—[you will not lack anything there]—

[a land] in which are stones of iron, [and from whose mountains] you will quarry copper.

10 You will eat and be satisfied. You are to bless YHWH your God [end aliyah] for the land, the good land, that God has given you.

8:11 Take heed [for yourself], lest you forget YHWH your God,
[so as not] to keep His commandments, His decrees, and His laws, which I lay upon you today.

12 [Lest you eat] and are sated, and houses—[fine ones indeed]—[you should build] [and settle in],

13 [and your cattle] and your sheep become many, and silver and gold you amass, and all your possessions becomes great,

14 [and you grow haughty] in your heart and you forget YHWH your God, [Who brought you out] from the land of Egypt, from a house of slaves.

15 It was He who led you [in the wilderness]: | great [and fearful it was], [where there were snakes] | and vipers and scorpions;

[you had thirst] when there [was no water], [when He brought out] for you water from rock—from flintstone.

16 [He fed you] *manna* in the wilderness, [which had not been known] to your fathers,

in order [to send hardships to you], and in order [to test you], [so that it go well with you] in the end.

17 [When you say] in your heart, “My power and the strength of my hand made for me all this wealth,”

18 [then you will remember] YHWH your God, because [He is the One] [who in fact] [gave to you] the *koach* (power) [to become] prosperous, so that [God might fulfill] [His covenant] which He swore to your fathers, as He is doing today.

19 [And it will be], if indeed you forget YHWH your God, [and you should go] after gods that are alien (“other gods”)—|[you worship them] and bow down to them, [I bear witness] [against you] [on this day] that you surely will perish.

20 [Like the nations] that YHWH cause to perish [before you], [like them], [you too will perish], because [you would not] hearken to the voice of YHWH your God.

9:1 Hear, O Israel, [you'll be crossing] today [over the Jordan]. [You will go in] [to drive out] nations that are greater and mightier than you, [containing cities] that are great and fortified to the skies,

2 a people great and tall, sons of the Anakites (giants) of whom [you yourself] knew [and you yourself] heard: “Who [can stand up] before the sons of Anak?”

3 [You shall realize] [this very day] [that it in is fact] YHWH your God who is crossing [before you]—a fire all-consuming.

[He is the One] [Who will wipe them out]: he will subdue them [before you], [driving them out] [and destroying them] quickly, [just as it was] [end aliyah] promised by YHWH to you.

9:4 [Do not] [think in your heart] [when God drives them back]—YHWH [your God] casts them out] |
[away from your presence]—[do not be saying]: "[Through my merit] I was brought by YHWH to possess the land [we have here]." |
[It is through the wickedness] of the nations [that were there] that YHWH drives them out from before you.

5 It is not [through your own merit] or the uprightness of your heart that you are coming to take hold of the land,
[but it is because] [of the wickedness] of the nations—[those other nations]—that YHWH your God [drives them out] [from before you],
[in order] to uphold [and keep to the word] that was sworn by YHWH to our fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

6 [And you shall then know] [that indeed it is true]: [it is not] [through your merit] that YHWH [Eloheicha your God] is giving to you
[the land that was promised]—[the goodly land]: [this land], as a possession, [since a stiff-necked people] you are.

7 Remember—[and never forget] [how you provoked] [and incurred the great wrath] of YHWH your God in the desert,
[from the very day]—[the day that you came out] [from [the land of Egypt], [until you came] to this land. Defiant you have been toward YHWH.

8 And in Horeb you provoked YHWH, [such that angry enough] [was YHWH] [with you], that He might have destroyed you.

9 [When I went up] [there on the mountain] to receive the tablets of stone—tablets of the covenant that were sealed (cut) by YHWH with you,
I remained [there on the mountain] forty days and forty nights. Food (bread) I [did not eat] and water I did not drink.

10 Then gave YHWH—[He delivered to me]—the two tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God, (Elohim)
[and upon them] [were written all of the words] that [had been spoken] by YHWH [with you] [there on the mountain],
from the midst of the fire, on the day of assembly.

11 [And what then occurred] at the end of forty days [and of forty] nights
He gave—YHWH—[the tablets to me], [namely the two] tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

12 Then spoke YHWH [these words to me]:
“Rise up [and go down] quickly [from here], because [they have wrought ruin]—your people, that you brought out from Egypt.
[They have] [been quick to turn] from the path that [I prescribed for them]. They have made for themselves [a molten image].

13 Then spoke YHWH [to me], and said, “[I have seen] this people: I see a people stiff-necked indeed.

14 Leave me be [that I may destroy them], [and wipe out] their name from under the heavens,
[and I will make] of you a nation greater and mightier than they.

9:15 [And so I turned] [and came down] [from the mountain], the mountain ablaze with fire, with the two tablets of stone in my two hands.

16 [And then I saw it]: I saw how you sinned [against YHWH] your God by making [for yourselves] a calf made of metal.

You had strayed [so very soon] [from the path] that was prescribed by YHWH for you.

17 And I seized the two tablets and I threw them down from my two hands, [and I smashed them] [before your eyes].

18 [Then I lay prostrate] [like the first time]: the forty days and forty nights [when food] I did not eat and water I did not drink, [because of all] of your sins that you had committed, to do [an evil thing] in the eyes of YHWH, [to provoke Him].

19 Since [I was in dread] from before the anger—the very fury—because [so angry indeed] [was YHWH] [with you], which might [have destroyed you]. [But God listened]: YHWH [gave heed to me], even at that time.

20 [And with Aaron as well], [angry indeed] [was YHWH] exceedingly; [He might have destroyed him], [and I interceded] also for Aaron at that time.

21 [As for the sinful thing] [that you had made]—[namely the calf]—[I took a hold of it] and burned the thing in the fire.

I crushed the calf, [grinding it] thoroughly, until it was fine as dust, [and I threw] the dust into the wadi, that came down the mountain.

22 [And at Tav'erah] and at Massah and at Kibuth ha Taavah (“graves of craving”) you provoked to wrath YHWH.

23 You were sent by YHWH—[God sent you forth] from Kadesh Barnea, [and God said this]:

“Go up and take hold of the land, that which I am giving to you,”

[but you did rebel] [against the word] of YHWH your God. [You did not] [put your trust] in Him, and you did not heed His voice.

24 Defiant you have been, with YHWH [from the day] I first knew you.

25 [And I threw myself] before YHWH for those [forty days] and forty nights, that [I lay prostrate],

because God (YHWH) had said, that He would destroy you.

26 [And so I prayed] [to YHWH], [saying this]: “Adonai, [my Lord Elohim] (YHWH), [bring not ruin] on your people and on your inheritance that you have redeemed in your greatness whom you brought out of Egypt with a strong hand.

27 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. [Do not pay heed] to the stiffness of this people—to its wickedness [and to its offences].

28 [Lest they should say]—[the peoples of the land], to which [you brought us out] [from there]—[It was from a lack] of ability by YHWH [to bring them forth] to the land that He [promised them], [from His hatred] [of them], [He brought them out] to let them die in the wilderness.’

9:29 Indeed, they are your people, your inheritance,
[whom you] [have brought out] with power so awesome [end aliyah] [with your arm] [that was outstretched]."

10:1 Now at that time [God spoke]—YHWH [said this to me]: “[Carve for yourself] [two tablets] of stone [like the first ones]. Come up to me on the mountain, and make for yourself an ark out of wood.

10:2 [I will write] [on the tablets] [those very words]: the words [that had been inscribed] on the tablets—the first ones—which you did break, and you shall place them in the Ark.”

3 [So I made] an ark from wood of acacia [and proceeded to carve] two tablets of stone [like the first ones], and I went [up on the mountain], with the two tablets in my hand.

4 And God wrote on the tablets, [like the writing]—[the original one]; namely the ten words: the words [that had been spoken] by YHWH [to you] [there on the mountain] [in the midst of the fire], on the day of the assembly, and they were given by YHWH to me.

5 [Then I turned around] [and came down] from the mountain, and I put the tablets in the Ark which I had made, and they [remained there], as I had been commanded by YHWH.

6 And the children of Israel [journeyed onward] from the wells of B’nei Yaakan to Moserah.

This [is where died] Aaron, and he was buried there, [and so serving as priest] was Eleazar his son in his place.

7 From there they journeyed on to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Yatvath, a land [of brooks of water].

8 Now [that was the time] [that set apart] by YHWH was the tribe of Levi to carry [the Ark of the covenant] of YHWH [and to stand] before YHWH [to serve Him] and to bless [in God’s name], until [this very day].

9 [Because of this fact] [there has not been] [given to Levi] a portion or an inheritance with his brothers.

YHWH is his inheritance, [just as] [it had been spoken] by YHWH your God to him.

10 [And as for me] I remained [there on the mountain] [as in the days] [of the first time]: the forty days and the forty nights. I was heard by YHWH—[God listened to me] also this [time around], so not inclined was YHWH [to destroy you].

11 Then said YHWH to me, “[Now get up]; go on the march at the head of the people, [that they will go in] [and take possession] of the land [end aliyah] that I swore to their fathers, that I would give them.

10:12 And now O Israel, [what does YHWH] your God ask of you, but [that you should hold Him in awe]—to fear YHWH your God, to walk [in all his ways], and [to love Him], to serve YHWH your God with all your heart, [and with all your soul],

13 [and that you should keep] the command of YHWH [and His laws]: [the regulations] I enjoin upon you today, [that it go well] with you.

14 [In truth], to YHWH your God [belong the heavens] and the heaven of heavens, the earth, [and all that is in it].

15 [And even with this], [it was only your fathers] who were drawn by YHWH [with a unique love] for them, [and He also chose] their seed [after them]—[and hence you yourselves]—from all of the peoples, as it is to this day.

16 [You must circumsize] the foreskin of your heart. [And as for your stiff necks]: you will not make them stiff any more.

17 Indeed, it is YHWH your God [who is truly] the God of gods and the Lord of Lords— the God who is great, mighty, and fearsome, One who [does not lift up] a face (in favor) and who does not take a bribe,

18 [and who provides] justice for the widow and the orphan, and who loves the alien, giving to him food and clothing (lit. bread and cloak).

19 And you [must love the alien] since aliens you were in the land of Egypt.

20 [It is YHWH] [Eloheicha your God] [whom you must fear]; Him [you must serve].
To Him [you must cleave]; [by His name] you must swear.

21 He is your glory and He is your God,
[who surely] [did do for you] [things great] and fearsome—[awesome deeds], that you did indeed saw [with your eyes].

22 With seventy souls your fathers went down to Egypt.
[And now we can see]: [you have been made] by YHWH your God like the stars of the heavens for multitude.

11:1 And you shall love therefore YHWH your God,
and safeguard [what God has charged]: [all His decrees], [His regulations], [and His commandments], [all the days].

2 [And you shall know] [this day]: [the ones to whom I speak] are not [your children indeed] who [did not know] and [who did not see] the discipline (*mussar*) of YHWH your God [or His greatness], His hand—[His strong hand], and His arm outstretched.

3 His signs and His deeds that He did in the midst of *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all of his land,

4 and [that He did] to the forces of Egypt, [to their horses], [and to their chariots], when He made to flow the waters [of the Sea of Reeds] [over them] (“over their faces”), when they were pursuing [after you], [and they were destroyed] by YHWH—[leaving no trace] to this day.

11:5 [and that which] [God had done] [to you] in the wilderness, [until you came] to this place here.

6 and what God had done to Dathan [and Aviram], the sons [of Eliav] [sons of Reuben], [at the time] [when opened] the earth its mouth, swallowing them and their households, [and their tents], and everything alive at their feet, in the midst of all Israel.

7 [And thus] your eyes have seen [all of these things]—the deeds of YHWH,—[the great work]—[all that God] has done.

8 [So you shall keep] all of the *mitzvah* (commandment), [that which I] am prescribing to you today,

[so that] [you may be strong] and come: [take hold of] the land—[the land] [which you in fact] are crossing over, to possess it.

9 In order [that prolonged may be] your days upon the land, [this being the land] that was sworn

by YHWH [unto your fathers], to give to them, [and to their seed], [a land that indeed] [end aliyah] is flowing with milk and honey.

10 Since, [concerning the land] of which you [are going there] to possess it—not [like the land] of Egypt [is it]:

the land from whence [you went out], a place [where you could sew] your seed, and could water it with your foot, like a garden of herbs.

11 [And regarding the land]—the land of which [you are crossing] over [to possess it]—it is a land of mountains and valleys.

From the rain of the heavens, [you will drink water].

12 [It is a land] that YHWH your God [surely looks] after [at all times].

The eyes of YHWH your God [are upon it] from the start of the year until the end of the year.

13 [And it shall be], if you hearken and obey My commandments—[the statutes indeed] [that I myself] am enjoining upon you today:

[that you should love] YHWH your God [and to serve Him] with all your heart and with all your soul.

14 [And I will grant] [the rain of your land] in its season, [the early rain] and late. [You will gather in] your grain, your wine, and your oil.

15 [And I will provide] grass in your field for your cattle. [You will eat] and be satisfied.

16 [Take heed] [to yourselves], [lest you be seduced] in your heart

[and you turn astray], and you serve gods that are alien (“other gods”), [and you bow down] to them.

17 Then will flare up the wrath of YHWH [against you], [and God holds back] the heavens, and there is no rain,

so that the earth does not give forth its yield, and you perish [quickly indeed] from off the land—[the goodly land], that YHWH is giving to you.

11:18 [You are to place] the words [you are hearing] on your heart [and on your soul],

and you [will bind them] as a sign [upon your hand], and they shall be as bands between your eyes.

19 [You will] [teach these words] to your children, speaking of them

[when you are sitting] in your house, [when you are walking] on the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up,

20 [and you shall write them] on the doorposts of your house, [and on your gates].

21 [So that many] [will be] your days and the days of your children [on that very land]: the land [that had been sworn] [by YHWH] to your fathers, [to give] unto them, [end aliyah] as the days of the heavens [over the earth].

22 [For in truth], if you hearken and obey all the *mitzvah*—[all this command]—[the statutes indeed] [that I myself] enjoin upon you [to observe them], [that you should love] YHWH [Eloheichem your God], walk in all His ways, [and cleave to Him].

23 [Then God will drive out]—[YHWH Himself]—all of these nations, [from before you].

[You will dispossess] nations that are greater and mightier [than you are].

24 [In whatever place] of which [there happens to tread] [the sole of your foot] upon it, for *you* it shall be,

from the desert to the Lebanon, from the river—[the River Euphrates], [as far as] the Western (“Hinder”) Sea shall be your borders.

25 There will stand up no man [against you]. Fear of you and awe of you [will be set in place] [by YHWH [Eloheichem your God] over the face] [of the whole land] [on which you tread] [end aliyah] [just as] it was promised to you.

Len Fellman's English readings with tropes

The purpose of this project is to translate *THE SONG OF THE TORAH* into English.

I work by comparing as many as ten English translations of a *pasuk* and creating a cantillated English sentence that sounds as much as possible like the Hebrew. They follow the Hebrew as closely as possible, word for word and trope by trope. The English language has an amazing flexibility, making it possible to make the English word order match that of the Hebrew quite well, allowing for some “poetic licence”, and some willingness on the part of the listener to be “carried” by the melody more than by the English syntax. The translation needs to sound good when *chanted*, but not necessarily when *spoken or read*.

Unlike most translations, these “transtropilations” are not intended to be a substitute for the Hebrew. On the contrary, they are meant to provide a “window” into the Hebrew text and its musical expression. My ideal listener knows enough Hebrew and has enough interest to follow the Hebrew in a bilingual text while the *leyner* is chanting the English version, to bring the Hebrew text to life, both *verbally* and *musically*. For this purpose I use *exactly* the same tropes in the English as in the Hebrew (almost always on the corresponding English word).

The texts can be used to do **consecutive translation**, i.e. leyning a phrase in Hebrew, followed by the corresponding phrase sung in English. Some of my recordings demonstrate this. I do this frequently when leyning for groups that either know little Hebrew, or that don't have a *chumash* in front of them.

I favor literal translations (e.g. “cut a covenant”) to call attention to Hebrew idioms, and towards simpler (even if less accurate) words (e.g. Ex. 12:7 “beam above the door” rather than “lintel”) to be easier to follow. If my readings provoke a discussion of the Hebrew, I consider that as justification for using less-than-idiomatic English. I try to find just the right balance between “literalness” and “listenable-ness”. A primary goal is throwing light on the Hebrew syntax.

In order to adapt the trope symbols to a left-to-right language like English, I *reversed* the direction of the trope symbols:

mercha tipcha munach tevir mapakh or yetiv kadma or pashta geresh gershayim telisha katana telisha gedola

(Generally speaking the *conjunctive tropes* such as mercha, munach, mapakh, kadma, and telisha katana “lean toward” the words they “conjoin” to, while the *disjunctive tropes* such as tipcha, geresh, gershayim, and telisha gedola “lean away” from the words that follow, so as to create a sense of separation.)

The trope symbol is normally placed under the accented syllable, unless it is a *pre-positive* accent (telisha gedola, placed *at the beginning* of the word or phrase) or a *post-positive* one (telisha katana or pashta, placed *at the end* of the word or phrase).

The Hebrew text frequently puts a *makkeph* (which is like a hyphen) between words in order to treat them as a single word to be chanted. I use a different system for English: If an entire English phrase is to be chanted to a single trope melody, I place it between grey brackets, as in this phrase from the Book of Lamentations:

[clings to her skirts] 

The *leyner* is invited to fit this phrase to the *Eicha* “rivi'i” melody in whatever way seems most natural.

As a variant of the “grey bracket” device, I indicate pairs of tropes by “wrapping them around” the phrase which have the combined melody:

mercha/tipcha	kadma/geresh (or: azla, etc.)	mercha siluk
Renew our days	‘She weeps bitterly’.	a fire-offering to God

Again, the *leyner* should decide on the most natural way to fit the phrase to the combined trope melody.

I put words in gray which I consider essential but which don’t strictly match the Hebrew. I also “pad” some phrases with extra words in gray to fill out a musical phrase nicely. Different trope systems vary widely in the length of the musical phrase used, so the words in gray may or not be used depending on the leyner’s cantillation system. In particular, the tropes *telisha g’dola* (Q), *legarmeh*, *metigah-zakef*, and *pazer* vary widely in the musical phrases used for chanting. (And please indulge me in my whimsical treatments of *shalshelet*.)

“*Metigah-zakef*” is a special trope combination which can be recognized by a *kadma* and a *zakef katon* appearing on the same Hebrew word (again, a *makkeph* makes two words into one). (There are several examples in Genesis 18 & 19, beginning with 18:16). I indicate this by placing the corresponding English phrase in grey brackets:

[Take heed—take care for yourself] :

In some trope systems (viz. cantor Moshe Haschel in “Navigating the Bible II”) this is given a distinctive melody—I add extra syllables to fill out the musical phrase (as in “take care” in this example). Haschel’s system also chants the trope *munach* as *legarmeh* more often than other systems do.

I don’t write a single word of translation without first hearing the melody of the phrase in my mind, following one of two trope systems: The one by Portnoy and Wolff (*The Art of Cantillation*) or the one by Joshua R. Jacobson (*Chanting the Hebrew Bible*).

I transcribe the name יְהָוָה as YHWH (in small caps). I almost always chant this as *yud-hey-vav-hey*, which I have discovered fits marvelously into several of the trope melodies. But of course the leyner can choose to pronounce it as “God” or “Adonai”.

Warning on the Hebrew text: The text I use for the English trope system is from Aryeh Kaplan; the Hebrew text I display is from Wikisource. Occasionally (but rarely) a phrase will use different tropes in the two systems.

The English translations I mostly use (besides several scholarly commentaries) are the following:

Aryeh Kaplan, ‘The Living Torah’ (1981) (also my source for proper names & transliterations)

Richard Elliott Friedman, ‘The Bible With Sources Revealed’ (2003)

Everett Fox, ‘The Five Books of Moses’ (1997)

The Stone Edition ‘Tanach’ (1996)

JPS ‘Hebrew-English Tanach’, (2nd Ed. 2000), *along with Orlinsky, ‘Notes on the New Translation of the Torah’* (1969)

Robert Alter, ‘The Five Books of Moses’ (2004)

Commentaries in the ‘Anchor Bible’ series

Rotherham, The Emphasized Bible (1902)

The Jerusalem Bible (1966) (also my source for topic headings)

The New King James Bible (1982)